

U.S. Senate
Republican Policy
Committee

Larry E. Craig, Chairman
Jade West, Staff Director

No. 11

Legislative Notice

Editor, Judy Gorman Prinkey

May 21, 1999

S. 1059 — The FY 2000 DoD Authorization Bill

Calendar No. 114

Reported from the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 17, 1999, by a unanimous vote of 20-0. S. Rept. 106-50. Additional views filed.

NOTEWORTHY

- The Senate will begin consideration of S. 1059 on Monday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. Votes, if ordered, will be stacked after 5:30 p.m.
- The Committee recommends \$288.8 billion in budget authority for FY 2000, representing a 2.2- percent real increase in defense spending. This funding level is \$8.3 billion above the President's request of \$280.5 billion, but consistent with the Concurrent Budget Resolution.
- In response to reports of declining readiness, the Committee supported increased operations and maintenance funding by \$1.2 billion, while also providing additional resources to combat emerging threats. Reflecting a commitment to reduce the backlog in military construction and enhance soldiers' quality of life, the Committee increased military construction and family housing programs by \$3.4 billion. An increase of \$855 million to the procurement budget is authorized, while nearly \$1.9 billion is added to procure a range of unfunded requirements.
- The Committee approved: a 4.8-percent pay raise for military personnel effective January 1, 2000; reform of the military pay tables effective July 1, 2000; annual military pay raises of one-half percent above the annual increase in the Employment Cost Index for FYs 2001-2006; a provision allowing service members to choose between remaining under the current retirement system and receiving a \$30,000 bonus or changing to a different retirement system; and military personnel participation in the Thrift Savings Plan. [Language in this bill is very similar to portions of S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999, which passed the Senate on February 24, 1999, by a vote of 91-8; the House has not passed the bill.]
- In response to recent allegations of lax security at DOE labs, the Committee recommended a comprehensive set of provisions to enhance safeguards, security, and counterintelligence at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.
- The Committee bill does not authorize any future rounds of base closures. It is likely an amendment to authorize one additional round of base closures in 2001 will be offered.

BACKGROUND

Committee Overview and Recommendations

The current international security environment is replete with uncertainties and diffused threats. The DoD FY 2000 budget request and the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) do not provide the level of funding necessary to meet those threats. As a result, the Committee believes that the Administration should establish a clear sense of priorities and a coherent strategy as it allocates scarce resources to preserve national security and the readiness of the armed forces for the next millennium.

Personnel

On personnel issues, the Committee focused on some of the most pressing issues: recruiting and retention, pay and compensation, and health care. The Committee's recommendations include most of the pay and compensation elements of S. 4 (which was passed the Senate, but has not been considered in the House), as well as other innovative proposals to enable military recruiters and retention personnel to offer incentives to potential high-quality recruits and valuable active duty members.

Readiness and Management Support

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support focused on the near-term and long-term readiness capability of the force in relation to modernization, infrastructure, quality of life, management reform, and research and development. Contingency operations in the Kosovo theater of operations, Bosnia, and Haiti have exacerbated readiness deficiencies. Through these operations, already scarce resources have been drained and critical assets diverted. The Committee was deeply concerned that the DoD has proposed, for the first time in a decade, an environmental budget that leaves substantial cleanup and compliance requirements unfunded.

Emerging Threats and Capabilities

This year, the Committee established the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities to provide a focus for the DoD's efforts to counter new and emerging threats to vital national security interests. This subcommittee has oversight over such threats as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist attacks both at home and abroad, information warfare, and narco-trafficking. The Committee remains concerned about the Department's failure to provide a comprehensive accounting of the budget request related to combating terrorism. To ensure adequate oversight, the Committee recommends the establishment of a central transfer account to fund DoD programs that support programs to combat terrorism.

Countering the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Since preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is critical to our nation's security, the Committee has authorized over \$740 million for DoD and Department of

Energy (DoE) programs that provide assistance to Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union. However, the Committee is concerned about the increased burden on the United States in funding these programs and recommends initiatives to secure additional cooperation from the recipients of U.S. funds and lessen the U.S. cost share of these programs. In addition, the Committee is concerned with the overall management and oversight of these programs and recommends several initiatives that will allow for greater accountability and oversight.

Defending Information Infrastructure

The Committee notes the important steps taken by the administration and DoD to secure critical information infrastructures. However, significant funding deficiencies remain in this year's budget request and the FYDP for information assurance and related matters. Therefore, the Committee recommends additional funding in this area and a provision that would strengthen the Department's information assurance program and provide for improved Congressional oversight.

Airland

In its review of the FY 2000 budget request, the Committee emphasized the need for funding that secures near-term core requirements and investments that achieve savings and support future modernization. The Committee has concluded that the current DoD modernization plan falls short of what is necessary to adequately equip the armed forces. As a result, the Committee recommends increased funding to address the modernization shortfalls identified by the military services.

Seapower

The Seapower Subcommittee hearings were structured to review the ability to carry out the National Security Strategy of Shape, Respond, and Prepare in the 21st Century. The Committee also reviewed ship acquisition programs and policies, and the projected ship research and development activities. It is the Committee's view that future readiness will be at risk if recapitalization and modernization continue to be deferred.

Strategic

Based on a series of hearings on national and theater missile defense programs, the Committee concluded that the DoD continues to pursue a severely funding-constrained ballistic missile defense (BMD) program. Although the Committee is pleased by DoD's decision to substantially increase funding for the National Missile Defense (NMD) program, the Committee found that a number of Theater Missile Defense (TMD) and BMD technology programs remain severely underfunded.

Department of Energy Defense Activities

The Committee remains concerned that the long-term investments of the DoE do not adequately preserve the vital manufacturing capabilities of the four weapons production plants. The Committee also remains concerned about the DoE tritium production program. The Committee notes that the DoE has failed to request sufficient funds to complete its proposed dual track tritium production strategy.

BILL PROVISIONS

Procurement

The Committee adds nearly \$1.9 billion to procure a range of critical, unfunded requirements and over \$280 million of vital research and development activities for both air and land forces.

- S. 1059 requires that some funds be transferred from various procurement accounts to a **new central transfer account to combat terrorism**.
- The Committee authorized an increase to the procurement budget request as follows:
 - \$1.4 billion more for the Navy and Marine Corps;
 - \$481.7 million more for the Air Force; and,
 - \$899.6 million more for the Army.
- As a cost savings measure, construction and advance procurement of the **LHD-8 Amphibious Assault Ship** is authorized at \$375 million in FY 2000, rather than in FYs 2004 and 2005.
- The President's request for 6 new ships is approved, as follows:
 - \$2.7 billion for 3 **DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class destroyers**;
 - \$1.5 billion for 2 **LPD-17 San Antonio class amphibious ships**; and
 - \$440 million for 1 **ADC(X)**, the first of a class of auxiliary refrigeration and ammunition supply ships.
- Beginning with the FY 2000 program year, the Secretary of the Navy may enter into a multi-year contract for the procurement of **F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft**, subject to successful completion of operational testing. The Committee understands this action may be accomplished with existing funds. The Committee fully funded the President's request of \$2.8 billion for procurement of 36 E/F aircraft.
- The budget request of \$1.8 billion for procurement of the **F-22 aircraft** is approved; however, the DoD is required to certify that the test program is adequate and that the development and production programs are executable within the cost caps.
- The budget request included \$86.1 million to procure eight **UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters**. The Committee highlights concerns about an aging fleet of utility helicopters throughout the Army and inadequate Army plans to address future utility helicopter requirements, and so recommends an increase of \$90 million to procure an additional 9 UH-60L Blackhawks, for a total authorization of \$176.1 million.
- Pointing to the need to accelerate modernization of **CH-47 medium lift Chinook helicopters**, the Committee recommends an increase of \$56.1 million, for a total of \$126.8 million, to procure engines for upgrading 36 aircraft.

- The budget request included \$7.1 million to support selective modifications to **Bradley fighting vehicles**. The Committee recommends an increase of \$74.2 million, for a total of \$81.3 million, to accelerate the initiation of a Bradley A2 sustainment program to provide modern Bradley fighting vehicles to support future Army warfighting requirements, and to address the Army's unfunded requirement for a sustainment program that is currently not scheduled to begin until FY 2003.
- Citing concerns about inadequate funding for ammunition, the Committee adds \$69 million for **Army ammunition** and \$55.8 million for **Marine Corps ammunition**.
- Noting an outstanding requirement for **Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS)** and an Army shortfall of these radios necessary to ensure total force fielding, the Committee recommends an increase of \$70 million, for a total authorization of \$83.2 million, to procure an additional 6,500 SINCGARS radios.
- Highlighting significant shortfalls in **night vision devices**, the Committee recommends an increase of \$95.4 million, for a total authorization of \$116.4 million.
- The budget request included \$88.2 million for 21 **Joint Primary Aircrew Training System (JPATS) aircraft** and associated support. The Air Force has included additional aircraft high on its unfunded requirements list. The Committee recommends an increase of \$85.4 million for an additional 18 aircraft, for a total authorization of \$173.6 million.
- The Committee recommends an increase of \$130.3 million for critical **F-16 modifications**, for a total authorization of \$379.8 million. The budget request was \$249.5 million.

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E)

The budget request included \$34.4 billion for research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E), a decrease of \$2.23 billion from the amount provided for last year's program. The Committee recommends an increase of \$1.5 billion, for a total authorization of \$35.8 billion for RDT&E.

- S. 1059 requires that funds be transferred from each of the Service's general RDT&E accounts to a new central transfer account to combat terrorism.
- The Committee authorizes an increase to the RDT&E budget request for the Services, as follows:
 - \$217 million more for the Navy and Marine Corps;
 - \$245 million more for the Army; and,
 - \$489.5 million more for the Air Force.
- The Committee does not support the DoD's proposed change to the acquisition strategy for **upper tier theater missile defense (TMD) programs**, as it puts the two programs (Theater High Altitude Area Defense - THAAD and Navy Theater Wide - Navy Upper Tier) into an unnecessary competition for the same resources, while contradicting

congressional guidance from previous years. The bill includes a provision requiring that the Navy Upper Tier and THAAD systems be managed and funded as separate programs.

- The budget request of \$308.6 million is authorized for the **Airborne Laser (ABL)** program. The bill includes a provision regarding the ABL's acquisition strategy, which requires specified tests and certification before certain program milestones.
- Citing concerns about the slow pace of the **Comanche helicopter** effort and the overall state of Army aviation modernization, the Committee recommends an increase of \$56 million, for a total authorization of \$483.1 million, to accelerate flight testing of the second prototype aircraft and mission equipment package.
- The Committee notes that the Administration has stated its intention to submit an amended budget request to increase the **Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS High)** program by \$92 million in FY 2000, a vital early warning and missile defense system. Notwithstanding this decision, the Committee believes the Secretary of Defense should assess the possibility of restoring at least a portion of the schedule delay in light of the recent Defense Support Program satellite-19 (DSP-19) launch failure.
- The budget request included \$3.3 billion for the **Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO)** for RDT&E and procurement. The Committee authorizes \$3.699 billion, an increase of \$399 million.
- BMDO funding allocations are as follows:
 - \$836.5 million for **National Missile Defense (NMD)**;
 - \$596.6 million for **THAAD**, a \$15 million decrease from the Administration request of \$611.6 million (The DOD is to be reimbursed \$15 million from the THAAD contractor due to the recent THAAD test failure);
 - \$449.8 million for **Navy Theater Wide (NTW)**, \$120 million more than the Administration's request of \$329.8 million (Of this increase, \$50 million is for development of an advanced radar for theater missile defense and \$70 million for NTW acceleration);
 - \$212 million more for the **Patriot PAC-3** program, for a total authorization of \$542 million. (Of this increase, \$152 million is for the unfunded EMD program and \$60 million is to make up for the FY 1999 shortfall.)
- The Committee believes that **BMDO and the Navy** should begin to evaluate options for supplementing the initial ground-based NMD architecture with sea-based assets, including an upgraded version of the Navy's Theater Wide theater missile defense system. The Committee directs the Defense Secretary to conduct a follow-on study to supplement a 1998 report on this issue. The report is to be provided to the Congressional defense committees by March 15, 2000.

Operation and Maintenance

The Committee recommends \$104 billion for O&M accounts for FY 2000, an increase of more than \$1.1 billion above the budget request. The funding in these accounts has a direct impact on the combat readiness of U.S. military forces.

- S. 1059 requires that funds be transferred from certain operation and maintenance accounts to a **new central transfer account to combat terrorism**.
- Highlighting concerns with the continued underfunding of essential operations — the Joint Chiefs have informed the Committee that the military services have more than \$650 million in **base operating requirements** that were not funded within this year's budget request — an increase of \$420 million is authorized for this account.
- The continuing decline in the readiness rates of Air Force aircraft and Marine Corps equipment prompted the Committee to increase by \$30 million funds for **Air Force depot maintenance** and to add \$10 million for **maintenance of aging Marine Corps equipment**.
- Citing concerns about the continuing growth in the backlog of **real property maintenance** (RPM) throughout the DoD — which currently exceeds \$30 billion — the Committee recommends an increase of \$554 million for this account.
- The Committee adds \$28 million for **Navy spare parts** and adds \$45 million for **Air Force spare parts** prompted by continuing reports of increased cannibalization rates and decreased mission-capable rates as a result of insufficient spare parts, coupled with the fact that spare part inventories are the number-one unfunded readiness priority identified by the Air Force.
- The Committee is concerned about the significant shortfall in resources necessary to maintain the readiness of the reserve components of the Army. With the reduced size of the active force structure, the reserve components will play an important role in any future conflict. Therefore, the Committee recommends an increase of \$20 million for **National Guard operational tempo**.

End Strength Levels

- The Committee authorizes 1,384,898 for **total active duty end strength**, 92 more than the requested level. The breakdown is as follows:

ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTHS

	FY1999 Authorization	FY2000 Request	FY2000 Recommendation
Army	480,000	480,000	480,000
Navy	372,696	371,781	371,781
Marine Corps	172,200	172,148	172,240
Air Force	370,882	360,877	360,877
Totals	1,395,778	1,384,806	1,384,898

- The Committee authorizes 874,043 for **selected reserve end strength levels**, which is 745 more than the requested level. The breakdown is as follows:

SELECTED RESERVE END STRENGTHS

Component	FY1999 Authorization	FY2000 Request	FY2000 Recommendation
Army National Guard	357,223	350,000	350,623
Army Reserve	208,003	205,000	205,000
Naval Reserve	90,843	90,288	90,288
Marine Corps Reserve	40,018	39,624	39,624
Air National Guard	106,992	106,678	106,774
Air Force Reserve	73,243	73,708	73,764
Coast Guard Reserve	8,000	8,000	8,000
Totals	885,322	873,298	874,043

Military Personnel Policy

- Highlighting concerns about the challenges facing the military services in **recruiting and retaining** the necessary quality and quantity of young men and women for service, the Committee strongly urges the secretaries of the military departments to test a wide spectrum of approaches, including outsourcing significant portions of the recruiting mission by function or by recruiting unit.

Compensation and Other Personnel Benefits

The Committee continued to focus on the need to improve military pay and compensation, consistent with the Committee's aggressive efforts to move for passage of S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999. The Committee's recommendations include most of the pay and compensation elements of S. 4, as well as other innovative proposals to enable military recruiters and retention personnel to offer incentives to potential recruits and active duty members.

- The Committee recommends a provision which authorizes a **4.8-percent pay raise** for military personnel effective January 1, 2000. This provision would also, effective July 1, 2000, **restructure the pay tables** for the uniformed services to relieve compression between grades by restoring significance to promotion pay raises and eliminating

inconsistencies in the current pay tables. This restructuring is intended to shift the emphasis toward promotion, while reducing and making longevity increases more uniform than those in the current pay tables.

- The bill includes a provision to provide that the **military pay raises** for each of FY 2001-2006 be equal to the Employment Cost Index plus one-half percent. This is intended to close the gap between military pay and private sector wages.
- The Committee recommends a provision that would authorize a **special subsistence allowance** of \$180 per month for enlisted personnel in grades E-5 and below who can demonstrate eligibility for food stamps.
- A series of **special incentive pays** are authorized, including:
 - a one-year extension of bonuses for critical skills;
 - establishing a career-enlisted-flyer incentive pay for those crewmen currently receiving hazardous-duty incentive pay when flying on duty;
 - a critical skills enlistment bonus; and,
 - an increase in the maximum amount authorized for reenlistment of active members.
- The Committee recommends a provision to allow service members who entered the uniformed services on or after August 1, 1986, the **option to retire** under the pre-1986 retirement plan or to accept a one-time \$30,000 lump-sum bonus and to remain under the "Redux" retirement plan.
- Effective July 1, 2000, service members are authorized to participate in the **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)** now available for federal civil service employees. Service members could deposit up to five percent of their basic pay, before tax, each month; while the government would not provide a matching contribution. Members would, however, be permitted to directly deposit special pays for enlistment, reenlistment and the lump-sum for remaining in "Redux," pre-tax, into their TSP, up to the limits in the Internal Revenue Code. The Committee, however, authorizes the service secretaries to make **contributions to the TSP** to those service member serving in a specialty designated as critical to meet service requirements.
- On December 1 of each year, the Secretary of Defense is required to submit to Congress a **progress report** assessing the effects the improved pay and other benefits are having on recruitment and retention.

Health Care

- The Committee approves a number of initiatives to improve the benefits and management of health care under **TRICARE**. One of these includes a requirement that the Secretary of Defense ensure that the healthcare coverage under TRICARE be substantially similar to the coverage under health plans offered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

- **Other initiatives** would require: TRICARE benefits to be portable throughout the various regions; that the authorization and certification requirements as a condition of access to TRICARE be minimized; and that TRICARE claims processing procedures follow the best business practices of the health care provider industry.
- **Further initiatives** would permit the Defense Secretary to increase reimbursement rates for health care providers in areas where the Secretary determines higher rates are necessary, and permit military treatment facilities to collect reasonable charges from third-party insurers that are incurred on behalf of a covered beneficiary.

DoD Organization and Management

- The Committee recommends a provision that would make **permanent** the requirement in the FY 1997 DoD Authorization Act that the Secretary of Defense conduct a **Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR)** at the beginning of each new administration to determine and express the defense strategy of the United States, and establish a revised defense plan for the next 10 to 20 years.
- The bill includes a provision establishing a **commission to assess U.S. national security management and organization of space**.

General Provisions

- The Committee emphasized the critical need for government-wide efforts to combat terrorism to be coordinated and clearly focused. To assist in that effort, the Committee establishes a **Department of Defense Central Transfer Account** for all DoD funds for combating terrorism, both at home and abroad. This will ensure accountability and focus on this increasingly important area.
- The bill includes a provision limiting the retirement of strategic nuclear delivery systems (extending a provision from FY 1999) but which would allow the **Navy to retire four Trident Submarines**.
- The Committee fully funds the Administration's request of \$954.6 million for **counter-narcotics activities**.
- The budget request included \$475.5 million for the **Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program**, an increase of \$35 million over the FY 1999 appropriated level. The Committee is concerned that this increase is due primarily to the fact the United States will be funding a larger share of this program and assuming a portion that was originally to be paid for by Russia. Further, recent reports that Russia has approved a number of decisions on its nuclear forces and nuclear weapons complex is cause for concern. Therefore, the bill requires the President to recertify that the Russians are foregoing any military modernization that exceeds legitimate defense requirements and are complying with relevant arms control agreements before any FY 2000 CTR funds may be obligated or expended.

Military Construction

The Administration requested authorization of \$8.4 billion for military construction and family housing programs, with only \$5.4 billion funded in FY 2000. The Committee fully funds the program and increases the fully funded amount by \$250 million, for a total increase of \$3.4 billion over the request. Highlighting readiness and quality-of-life concerns, the Committee includes \$200 million in unfunded requirements identified by the military services and more than \$140 million in quality-of-life projects such as barracks, family housing, and child development centers.

- The Committee believes that adopting the Administration's request to **phase-fund the FY 2000 military construction program** would have set a precedent with negative long-term impacts on military construction. Therefore, the Committee recommends a provision to prohibit the Secretary of Defense and the secretaries of the military departments from obligating funds for a military construction project if the funds appropriated are insufficient to provide for the construction of a usable facility.

Department of Energy National Security Authorizations

The FY 2000 budget request for atomic energy defense activities totaled \$12.4 billion, a 2.8-percent decrease over the adjusted FY 1999 level. The Committee recommends \$12.2 billion, a reduction of \$170 million to the budget request, or a 2.4-percent decrease over adjusted FY 1999 levels.

- The Committee recommends \$66.2 million for the **Office of Counterintelligence**, an increase of \$35 million. Of this increase, the Committee recommends \$10 million be used for the added responsibilities of the Director of Counterintelligence, and \$25 million be used for enhanced computer security at DoE facilities.
- The Committee reduces the Administration's request for and placed restrictions on both the **Initiative Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program** to engage weapons scientists and institutes in the former Soviet Union in non-military work, and the **Nuclear Cities Initiatives (NCI)**, which was launched to create jobs for displaced workers in the 10 "secret" cities of the Russian nuclear weapons complex.
- Citing a General Accounting Office report issued in February of 1999, which revealed problems and deficiencies in the implementation of the IPP and NCI programs, the Committee recommends a number of **initiatives to tighten up the management and provider greater oversight** of these programs.
- In response to recent allegations regarding **lax security at DoE laboratories**, the Committee recommends a comprehensive set of provisions to enhance safeguards, security and counterintelligence at DoE facilities. Key provisions include:
 - establishment of a permanent, external oversight commission to assess and make recommendations regarding DoE security and counterintelligence matters;
 - a requirement that DoE contractor fees be tied to compliance with security and counterintelligence requirements;

- a moratorium on all lab-to-lab programs unless the Director of Central Intelligence, the Director of the FBI, and the Secretary of Energy certify that such programs include adequate counterintelligence safeguards; and,
- enactment into law of the Administrative requirements of Presidential Decision Directive 61 regarding DoE counterintelligence programs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

No Statement of Administration Policy was available at press time.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

Allard. Retiree dental benefits enhancement.

Allard. Rocky Flat GAO follow-up report.

Cleland. To enhance G.I. Bill benefits, including an increase in benefits from \$528 to \$600 per month, elimination of the now-required \$1,200 service member contribution, permission to accelerate lump sum benefits, and authority to transfer GI benefits to immediate family members.

McCain. To authorize one additional round of base closures in 2001.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office assessment of the cost of S. 1059 was unavailable at press time.

OTHER VIEWS

Excerpts from Senator John McCain

"The Armed Services Committee has voted out unanimously a bill worthy of the Senate's support....

"It is imperative that the President work diligently to address growing readiness, modernization, recruitment and retention problems throughout the services and begin to fund the military at a level commensurate with ever-increasing operational requirements.

"It was extremely disturbing that, again, politics prevailed and the Committee failed to approve additional base closure rounds.... Finally, the Administration's politicization of the 1995 round certainly undermined the integrity of the process. The actions in question, however, do not argue against proceeding with future rounds.

"As usual, this year's defense bill emerged from committee with a large number of programs totaling more than \$3.3 billion that were not requested by the Defense Department.... In my view, the Congress should stop compelling the military to pursue research programs that do not meet their requirements.

"The bill contains a package of benefits for military personnel that would go a long way toward addressing the readiness problems facing all the services.... These personnel initiatives are the first step to ensuring that our Armed Forces continue to be the premiere fighting force into the 21st century.

"Military construction continues to fall victim to funding gimmicks and undue Congressional management. This year the Administration broke a sound policy of fully funding military construction projects in the year construction begins, and instead proposed an incremental funding scheme that purportedly saved billions of dollars.... The Congress is taking steps to fix this egregious oversight, however the Administration remains responsible for poor fiscal management in this area."

Excerpts from Senator Carl Levin

"I support the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000....

"I am disappointed that the Committee turned down the very strong recommendation of the Defense Secretary and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to authorize another round of base closures.

"Last year's congressionally-mandated report on Base Closures... reaffirms that DOD still has more bases than it needs...." "CBO and GAO reviewed the DoD Report and agreed that base closure saves substantial amounts of money....

"Our military forces need quality training and precision weapons to fight with a lot more than they need extra military bases. We have a great many higher priorities for our defense dollars than funding bases we no longer need.

"The senior civilian and military leaders of DoD are telling us again that they need to close more bases. I hope that we have the same vision and courage that we showed ten years ago when we started the BRAC process and authorize DoD to close unneeded military bases."

Staff contact: Dr. Yvonne Bartoli, 224-2946